

THE ASSOCIATION OF KANSAS THEATRE PRESENTS

The Fourth Annual KANSAS THEATRE CONFERENCE Holiday Inn Plaza, Wichita • March 10, 11, 12, 1978

An Invitation and a Welcome:

I take great pleasure in welcoming you to the fourth annual conference of the Association of Kansas Theatre. Many talented people have worked for months to create this special opportunity to enhance our theatre experience together and to share our concerns and hopes. The many productions in which we participate at our separate theatres exist for a short period and are gone forever. They continue to have life only in our memories, in our personal experience, in our muscles, in our minds. They have become part of what we are as artists and human beings. Only you can transmit this artistic legacy which you carry around inside yourself, because ultimately, you are the theatre. Do please bring the theatre which is in you and share it generously with others at our Kansas Theatre Conference.

Lloyd Anton Frerer, President
Association of Kansas Theatre

Dear Friends,

Once again the annual AKT Conference features a deliberate blend of National and Kansas theatre leadership. To this fourth gathering, we welcome special guests Milly Barranger, President-elect of the American Theatre Association; Jeanne Adams Wray, member at large, ATA Board of Directors, and past president, American Community Theatre Association; and Geraldine Siks, ATA Fellow, creative dramatics specialist,

and Professor Emeritus, School of Drama, University of Washington. As it happens, these three accomplished author/educators share a special honor as Distinguished Women of ATA. We are pleased also to have among our workshop leaders and panelists, actress Christine Von Dohln, Artist in Residence, Wichita State University Theatre; Carveth Osterhaus, director and choreographer, who heads the Musical Theatre Program at Oklahoma City University; and Martin Umansky, General Manager of KAKE Television and Radio, Wichita.

In addition to the conference sessions described in the program, and the well established professional theatre auditions, we introduce an important new feature: College and University auditions for high school seniors and junior college transfer students interested in scholarships and opportunities to further their education and training in theatre.

This conference is made possible in part through the generous support of the Kansas Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts. Special thanks go also to the members of the AKT Executive Committee for conference groundwork, with added appreciation to Local Arrangements Chairperson Joyce Cavarozzi and her colleagues at the Wichita State University Theatre.

Ronald Q. Frederickson
Conference Program Chairman

The cover is a scene from Emporia State University's Fall 1974 production of OKLAHOMA! (ESU Photo Services)

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Friday, March 10

10:00-4:00 Registration, LOBBY, Kiva Level

AKT membership fee is \$5.00 regular, \$3.00 student, and \$15.00 organizational. The conference fee for regular members is \$15.00 pre-registration and \$20.00 at the door; for college students, \$5.00 pre-registration and \$10.00 at the door; and for high school students, \$5.00. Each organizational membership includes one complimentary conference registration. These fees include audition privileges. For those who attend the professional audition only, the fee is \$10.00 for current AKT members and \$13.00 for non-members.

10:00- 1:00 Hospitality Room, DRAWING ROOM, Kiva Level

1:00- 2:30 Acting Workshop: Emotion Exercises for Character Development

Christine Von Dohln, Artist in Residence, Wichita State University
GOLD ROOM

A professional actress, Ms. Von Dohln holds the MFA from Columbia University, has studied Shakespeare at Oxford, and worked in Master Classes at the Actor's Studio under Ellen Burstyn and Eli Wallach.

The Director Prepares

Jeanne Adams Wray, past president, American Community Theatre Association

RIVIERA ROOM

For this workshop in the basics of directing, Ms. Wray draws substantially on material from her new book, now in progress, which carries the working title: The Director Prepares (repeated Saturday).

2:45- 4:15 Creative Dramatics Demonstration

Kat Matassarin Wallace, Artist in Residence for Creative Dramatics, Wichita Public Schools

RIVIERA ROOM

Ms. Wallace is assisted in this demonstration by a group of elementary school children from the Wichita area. Response and discussion led by special guest Geraldine Siks, Professor Emeritus, School of Drama, University of Washington.

Stage Lighting: A "Hands-on" Demonstration

Arden Weaver, Designer and Technical Director, Wichita State University Theatre

THE GALLERY

A demonstration of inexpensive lighting equipment for stage use, showing: positioning, focusing, coloring and movement; to include a discussion of basic lighting methods using minimal equipment (repeated Saturday).

2:45- 5:30 Performance Room: Secondary

School Theatre Potpourri

GOLD ROOM

A variety of performances from Kansas Secondary Schools. Discussion-critique following each.

4:30- 5:30 The Arts and the Media

Martin Umansky, General Manager, KAKE-TV and Radio, Wichita

THE GALLERY

Mr. Umansky, who was the first president of the Kansas Arts Commission, and for twenty-five years Business Manager of the Wichita Community Theatre, brings a wealth of experience from "both sides of the fence" to this session which is designed to help answer your questions and concerns about theatre in its vital relationship to the media.

Touring Theatre

PALM ROOM

Mary Horton Knecht, formerly Development Director of the Continental Theatre Company, now Special Assistant to the director of the Wichita Art Museum, moderates a panel which includes Suzanne Trauth, Ft. Hays State University; Charlotte Dodson, Creative Dramatics Consultant for ACACK; Pat Lotz, Community Children's Theatre of Kansas City; and Kim Brewster and William Lee Russell of the Topeka Recreation Department's Playhouse in the Park.

6:00- 7:30 DINNER— Geraldine Siks, guest speaker, will address the topic: Drama in the Classroom—An Art or a Method?

RIVIERA ROOM — Meal ticket \$6.50

A fellow of the American Theatre Association, and recipient of the "Creative Dramatics for Human Awareness" award, Geraldine Siks is emeritus professor of drama, University of Washington, and author of Creative Dramatics, An Art for Children, and most recently Drama With Children.

8:00- College and University Performance Showcase

WILNER AUDITORIUM, Wichita State University Campus, 17th & Fairmont

Scenes from current and recent theatre productions at Kansas Colleges and Universities.

New Play Readings

PIT THEATRE, Wilner Auditorium, WSU Campus, 17th & Fairmont

Reading and discussion of original scripts by Kansas Playwrights, Dick Welsbacher, Wichita State University Theatre, coordinator.

Refreshments

WILNER AUDITORIUM LOUNGE

Saturday, March 11

8:00- 9:45 AKT Division Meetings

Secondary School—

Keith Akins, guest

Community & Junior College
University and College
Professional Theatre
Children's Theatre
Community Theatre

GOLD ROOM

THE GALLERY

PALM ROOM

DIRECTORS' ROOM

DRAWING ROOM

RIVIERA ROOM

Students invited to attend the division meeting of their interest.

10:00-11:45 Through Drama to Learning: Drama in the Elementary School

Gerldine Siks, distinguished author, educator, and creative drama specialist

GOLD ROOM

Bring your questions and concerns to this conference's continuing exploration of one of the theatre's most vital and promising areas.

The Director Prepares (see also Fri. 1:00-2:30)

Jeanne Adams Wray, past president, American Community Theatre Association

RIVIERA ROOM

For this workshop in the basics of directing, Ms. Wray draws substantially on material from her new book, now in progress, which carries the working title: The Director Prepares.

12:00- 1:45 LUNCH—Milly Barranger, guest speaker, will address the topic: The Role of ATA in the Arts for the 1980's

PALM ROOM—Meal ticket \$5.50

Milly Barranger is President-elect of the American Theatre Association, Chairperson of the Department of Theatre and Speech, Tulane University, and author of books and articles on renaissance and modern drama.

12:45- 1:45 AKT Annual Business Meeting

PALM ROOM

All members of AKT are urged to attend this important session. Professor Barranger's address will take place in this portion of the luncheon/business meeting.

2:00- 3:30 Creative Volunteer Management

Twink Lynch, *President (outgoing), Kansas Community Theatre Conference*

PALM ROOM

An opportunity to think about what you have been thinking about working with volunteers—to test some assumptions, learn some theory, and explore the implications for community theatre.

Stage Lighting: A "Hands-on" Demonstration (see also Fri. 2:45-4:15)

THE GALLERY

Arden Weaver, *Designer and Technical Director, Wichita State University Theatre*

A demonstration of inexpensive lighting equipment for stage use, showing: positioning, focusing, coloring and movement; to include a discussion of basic lighting methods using minimal equipment.

Let's Stop Re-inventing the Wheel: Coping with non-theatre facilities

GOLD ROOM

One war story each from a panel which includes Martha Herrick, *Topeka High School*; Conrad Jestmore, *Maize High School*; James Ackerman, *Wichita Collegiate School*; Jo Gatz, *Colby Community College*; Jacquie Philip, *The Shortgrass Players—Hays*; and Richard Basgall, *The Way Off Broadway Players—Dodge City*. Lloyd Frerer, *AKT President (outgoing)* moderates.

2:00- 5:30 Performance Room: Children's Theatre—Contemporary Approaches

RIVIERA ROOM

Short scenes from scripts for children, performed by representative children's theatre groups in Kansas. Response and discussion led by Laura Barrett, *Director of Theatre, Emporia State University*.

3:45- 5:30 Choreography for the Stage Director

Carveth Osterhaus, *Director, Musical Theatre Program, Oklahoma City University*

GOLD ROOM

Back by popular demand, Mr. Osterhaus, actor, director, choreographer—and formerly a principal director at the *New York City Opera*—again demonstrates how best to utilize your natural ability to choreograph your production. Come prepared for stimulating discussion and "on-your-feet" techniques.

Production and Stage Management

John Holly, *Manager, Music Theatre of Wichita*

PALM ROOM

Mr. Holly will discuss the stage manager's responsibilities, together with management techniques and practical guidelines to help you meet your production dead-lines. Bring your questions for discussion and problem-solving.

5:30- 7:30 DINNER BREAK

7:30- High School Theatre Showcase

WILNER AUDITORIUM, Wichita State University, 17th & Fairmont

Presentation of the three one act plays winning first, second, and third place trophies at the *Wichita North High School Tournament* earlier this same day. Discussion-critique follows each performance.

7:30- 8:15 3rd place winner 8:20- 9:05 2nd place winner
9:10-10:00 1st place winner

8:00- New Play Readings (second evening)

PIT THEATRE, Wilner Auditorium, WSU Campus, 17th & Fairmont

Reading and discussion of original scripts by Kansas playwrights. Dick Welsbacher, *Wichita State University Theatre, coordinator*.

10:30 Afterglow

RIVIERA ROOM

A late night get-together with wine and cheese.

Sunday, March 12

7:00- 8:45 AKT Executive Committee Breakfast Meeting

COFFEE SHOP

9:00-11:00 Let's Get our AKT Together

RIVIERA ROOM

Twink Lynch, *President, (outgoing) Kansas Community Theatre Conference*

An All-Convention goal-setting session for *Kansas Theatre*.

9:00-10:00 Preparing for the Audition

John Holly, *Manager, Music Theatre of Wichita*

GOLD ROOM

Traditionally held prior to the *AKT* auditions, this workshop will cover resumes, warm-ups for performers, reading "cold," overcoming stage-fright, what to wear, proper attitude, etc. Discussion panel will include the producers, directors, and managers present for the professional auditions. Question-answer period. Professional auditions will follow.

10:00- Professional Auditions

GOLD ROOM

Opportunity to audition for directors of a number of theatre companies including summer theatres, dinner, and community theatres. Audition fee for non conference-registrants:

Current *AKT* members—\$10.00

Non-members—\$13.00

12:00- 3:00 College and University Auditions

RIVIERA ROOM

A chance for high school seniors and junior college transfer students to try for theatre scholarships, and to find out more about college and university theatre programs in Kansas.